

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph of page 4, lines 26-32 to page 5, lines 1-4, with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with still another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method for extending a character region in an image. The method comprises the steps of receiving an input image, classifying the input image into character blocks and background blocks, ~~and~~ converting pixels in the character blocks into pixels having a first brightness value and pixels in the background blocks into pixels having a second brightness value, ~~and~~ searching for left, right, top and bottom positions of a character region by horizontally and vertically scanning the block-classified image, ~~and~~ determining a position of the character ~~region~~; ~~region~~, ~~and~~ extracting an image in the determined position of the character region from the input image. The method for extending a character region in an image further comprises extending the extracted image of the character region to a size of the input image.

Please replace the paragraph of page 8, lines 15-26, with the following amended paragraph:

Position search part 140 horizontally and vertically scans the median-filtered image and searches for a position of the character region. The position search part 140 horizontally scans the median-filtered image and searches for a point x_1 at the leftmost character block and a point x_2 at the rightmost character block. The position search part 140 also vertically scans the median-filtered image, and searches for a point y_1 at the topmost character block and a point y_2 at the bottommost character block. A position of the character region in the image is determined according to a result of the search. In this case, the left top and right bottom points of the character region are (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) . The left top and right bottom points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) of the character region are based on the aspect ratio of the input image, such that distortion of the image can be prevented when [[an]] a region-of-contents (ROC) extension part 160 extends the image.